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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 32 | Min 21 | Humidity 79% Mostly Cloudy Sensex 62,792 | Nifty 18,599 | Gold 59,920 | Silver 71,930 | Dollar 82.59 | Euro 88.15 | GBP 102.43

MONSOON, SOON?

Rain's here, rains not far behind

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UNDERPASS ALL-CLEAR

BBMP survey allays underpass worry

PAGE 3

Several wards in the city have not had meetings since February. As civic issues pile up, citizens want to put it back on the table

CITIZEN & THE ART OF MAINTENANCE

Ward committee meeting only forum to put issues across directly to officials

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The ward committee system was introduced as a means to promote citizen participation in the workings of the city and decentralisation of power, aiming to address local issues at the grassroots level. However, many citizens are complaining that since February all that has come to a standstill. At the time, the reason given was that officials are busy with election duties, but now with that done, several wards in the city are eagerly awaiting resumption of their meetings.

The ward committee comprises elected representatives, government officials, and citizen representatives. It is a platform where citizens can meet the officials and put forward their grievances. The meetings are held every first week and third week of Saturday. However, the citizens pointed out that since there have been no ward committee meetings since February, the civic issues in their respective localities have been piling up.

For instance, the residents of Whitefield revealed that there are over 24 main problems that the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"Bengaluru is fortunate that it has got ward committees functioning in whatever form, due to a High Court directive, and we need to stay alert and strengthen the institution

– Sandeep Anirudhan, citizens' activist

Make way for the gentle giants

Study makes case for need to protect elephant corridor in Bannerghatta National Park

| Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A first-of-its-kind scientific study conducted on the Karadikkal-Madeshwara corridor of Bannerghatta National Park (BNP) has highlighted the need for urgent conservation of the elephant corridor.

Researchers have found that the corridor is being used by elephants in their movement across BNP's Harohalli and Anekal ranges. The first-of-its-kind scientific assessment of elephant corridors in India has also revealed that elephants tend to use natural habitats.

"We have conducted a scientific survey of the corridor and have deduced that it is being used extensively by a good number of elephants to move from one part of BNP to another. It also highlights that when natural habitats exist, elephants tend to use them more often than not. This indicates that forest ecosystems are very important for the survival of keystone species such as elephants, making connectivity between those habitats even more important,"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Music Jams

Every Wednesday, jam at Lahe Lahe with your voices and your musical instruments. You are also welcome if you just want to hear music.
Where: Lahe Lahe;
When: Wednesdays, 7:30-9:30 pm

02 For the tots

Zumbini is a music and movement program for kids aged 0-4 yrs and their caregivers. Sing, dance and play instruments all while creating an ultimate bond between the child and the caregiver. The Zumbini program focuses on enhancing the socio-emotional development, cognitive skills and motor skills of the little ones. Zumbini is a 45 min session where parent participation is the key. **W Where: Atta Galatta When: June 10, 4PM; Tickets: bookmyshow.com**

03 Look within!

Something Sufi is a 3-hour workshop inspired by poems and revelations of the Sufi mystic Rumi. In a world that seems to be ever more chaotic, Rumi's art has the power to bring about clarity and tranquility. This is a participative workshop of his teachings through active work on thought, movement and awareness.
Where: Lahe Lahe; When: June 10, 6-9 pm

KAUSHIK JN

When it pours: Bengalureans go about their day while caught in Tuesday's shower

Waiting, waiting for southwest monsoon

Unlike usual weather patterns, this year, southwest monsoon delayed by a few days; experts say current meteorological conditions apt for arrival

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The big question on every Bengalurean's mind is: when will the monsoon enter the state? Usually, the monsoon winds cover south Karnataka by now. However, this year, surprisingly, the southwest monsoon is yet to reach the Kerala coast.

According to private weather forecaster Sanjayweatherman, the southwest monsoon is likely to start from July 8 or 9. As many of the reservoirs are seeing a severe dip in water storage, a delay in monsoon can only add to the woes.

However, meteorologist A Prasad, says the southwest monsoon is set to make landfall along the Kerala coast shortly. "Compared to Monday's weather conditions, Tuesday's conditions appear to be more favourable for the monsoon's onset. One significant indicator is the wind direction, which is currently blowing from the west. This change in wind direction, occurring at an altitude of 4.5 kilometre, marks the fulfilment of the first indicator. The second indicator to watch for is the wind speed, which is expected to range between 40 to 50 kilometre per hour. These wind speeds, when combined with other factors, contribute to the ideal conditions for the monsoon's arrival," he explained.

Several regions, including Kerala, Mangaluru, and Lakshadweep, are likely to be affected by the initial monsoon showers. Out of the 18 monitoring stations in these areas, approximately eight to nine stations should be expected to receive rainfall. To qualify as a monsoon onset, at least 60 percent of these stations should

record rainfall of 2.5 millimetre or more for a duration of at least two consecutive days. At present, the situation appears favourable for the monsoon's arrival, as the aforementioned criteria are expected to be met.

It is anticipated that after making landfall in Kerala, the cyclone will move towards Karnataka within a day. The monsoon's journey across the state is expected to take approximately one week, covering entire Karnataka.

Scientists said that there are no surprises for the late arrival of monsoon. If we look at the monsoon arrival dates in the previous years, the monsoon onset in Kerala coast in 2018 was May 29, 2019 - June 8, 2020 - June 1, 2021- June 3 and 2022 - May 29.

Meanwhile, a depression in the Arabian Sea is predicted to intensify into a cyclone. However, meteorologists are still studying its pattern and whether the depression/cyclone will affect the progress of southwest monsoon. Currently, a depression over the southeast Arabian Sea has moved northwards at a speed of 11 kmph and is currently centred near latitude 11.5°N and longitude 66.0°E. It is expected to intensify into a cyclonic storm over the east-central Arabian Sea and adjoining southeast regions within the next 12 hours.

Prasad said several areas in the state are expected to experience rainfall in the coming days.

There were multiple factors at play. Besides these, there is a trough extending from Madhya Pradesh to North Interior Karnataka and an upper air cyclonic circulation at an altitude of 5.8 km over South Tamil Nadu. As a result, coastal areas are likely to witness heavy rainfall between June 8 and 10, while North Interior Karnataka may experience light to moderate rainfall during the same period. From Wednesday onwards, there will be rainfall in many places in South Interior Karnataka until June 10. Specifically, on June 9 and 10, South Interior Karnataka will be under a yellow alert, indicating the possibility of heavy rainfall. On June 9, Ballari, Kodagu, and Tumakuru will be under a yellow alert, while on June 10, Chikkaballapur and Kodagu will also have a yellow alert due to heavy rainfall.

Reports say that from Wednesday, there will be rainfall in many places in South Interior Karnataka until June 10

However, there is no alert issued for Bengaluru Urban or Bengaluru Rural areas. Coastal Karnataka may experience gusty surface winds during this period. As of now, Bengaluru may witness light to moderate rainfall for the next two days with maximum and minimum temperatures likely to be within 32 and 22 degree Celsius respectively.

Underpasses? 'Perfectly safe'

...says a report by BBMP after conducting survey on Bengaluru's underpasses; minor work going on in many of them currently

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Fire force personnel rescue a woman & an auto driver after the auto got stuck in a flooded KR Circle underpass (file image)

Trust the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to have unwavering faith in our civic facilities. After the incident where a 23-year-old woman died of getting stuck at KR Circle underpass, the civic agency had conducted a survey of all the underpasses. Now, the report is out and BBMP claims that all the underpasses are safe.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said, "When we inspected all the underpasses, we received a report stating that none of the underpasses pose a danger to people. The only issue is waterlogging in the underpasses. We have completed work in 41 underpasses and only minor work remains for 13 underpasses. The Engineer-in-Chief has provided a report, and we are working according to its recommendations.

"Additionally, the required funds for the remaining work are not substantial. However, there are issues with the Cauvery Junction underpass and Le Meridian underpass. For these underpasses, we need to provide shades to cover them. It will take some time to install shades at Cauvery Junction, and we will also make efforts to clean up the other underpasses. Additionally, at Sivananda Circle, we need to create an alternative line for the drain so that water flows smoothly."

"Report has asked BBMP to build a hump at entry, exit points, install CCTVs, vertical clearance gauge and a bom barrier to mitigate excess waterlogging

However, Bengalureans say that only the monsoon rains will test the efficacy of these underpasses.

Many also point to the fact that despite the tragedy at KR Circle underpass, no work is yet to be taken up. Nath claimed one may not see visible work on the ground because they have started with the drain line. Previously, the excess water would flow into the drain line.

However, once they construct two humps, they will need to build two separate drains to divert the excess water. Although work is ongoing on the drains, "we assure you that the KR Circle underpass will be taken care of", he said.

As per BBMP's earlier reports, the drainages at KR circle underpass will be connected to the Rajakaluve and will stop the flow of excess water from the road surface entering the underpass.

The report has asked BBMP to construct a hump at the entry and exit so that the hump blocks the free flow of water from the road surface entering the underpass. It is also recommended to install CCTVs at the underpass, as well as a vertical clearance gauge beam and a boom barrier. These short-term measures will be fixed within the next 15 days.

Meanwhile, the post mortem report stated that the underpass at KR Circle was at a lower altitude and was prone to flooding as the gushing water from all the directions could enter the underpass.

This underpass was one of the 'magic box' underpasses constructed using precast technology in 2011. The underpass is in a U-shape and has a drainage system to allow for the free flow of excess water.

The drainage is 0.6 meters wide and 0.6 meters deep. Gratings have been fixed on the drainage to prevent debris from blocking the flow of water. The drainage system is connected to the rajakaluve, which flows near the PWD building.

Murder of live-in partner: Man on the run

CRIME FILES

A young woman found dead in the city is said to have been allegedly murdered by her boyfriend. The deceased has been identified as Akanksha, who was an employee at a private company, and the Jeevan Bhimanagar police are investigating the matter.

According to the police, Akanksha, 23, was in love with Arpit and the duo was in a live-in relationship. While Akansha was from Hyderabad, Arpit was from Delhi. The police are searching for him.

On Monday, there was a fight between the two and they talked about separating. Later, Arpit was accused of suffocating Akanksha to death.

It is also said that an attempt was made to make the young woman appear dead by hanging her with a tie around her neck. However, Arpit escaped leaving the body on the floor without being able to tie it to the fan. The incident came to light when another roommate Navneet came home after work at night.

Jeevan Bhimanagar police have sent the body for a postmortem and are continuing the investigation.

Murder, gone viral

The ghastly video of the murder of rowdy sheeter Renukumar, who was brutally murdered on May 25 in the city's Mahadevapur, is going viral.

Rowdy Sheeter Renukumar's accomplices Srikanth and Prashant are the accused for the murder. According to sources, he was brutally stabbed 26 times in 40 seconds, as captured on CCTV.

Earlier, Renukumar, who was released from jail, had threatened his companions. Enraged by this, the accomplices planned and attacked him. Renukumar, was released from jail only a few days ago. There were more than seven cases against the deceased including murder, attempted murder and robbery. Currently Mahadevapur police have arrested Prashant, Srikanth and Vasant.

Teen goes missing, to travel

A class 9 boy is said to have gone missing in RT Nagar Police station limits. After searching for some tourist places on his mother's mobile, he collected information and left home after filling a bag with clothes. Later the parents filed a complaint in the police station.

Aditya searched some parts of Malpe, and Mysuru on his mother's phone and left the town. On May 29, Aditya left home with his clothes. The alarmed parents then visited some astrologers. After listening to astrologers, they were searching the coast.

The scene of the boy leaving the house was captured on the CCTV camera and the RT Nagar and Malpe police station officials were informed. the boy is currently in the Mysuru area. A case has been registered in RT Nagar police station in this regard. **BMB**

SIM card criminals nabbed

The CCB police have arrested the three accused who cheated cab operatives through pre-activated SIM cards. Around 1,055 SIM cards, 15 mobiles, four laptops were seized from the accused. The miscreants used to collect fake documents and buy various SIM cards for fraud and illegal activities. The accused have been identified as Manoj Kumar, Sachin and Shankar. **BMB**

ED raids B'luru firm

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) carried out search operations at the premises of a Bengaluru-based firm and its director in a money laundering case.

The search operations were conducted at Shree Parvathi Tex (India) Pvt Ltd and its director Rajendra Patil in a case registered under the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999.

According to ED statement, the premises covered include the residential premises of Patil as well as the office premises of Shree Parvathi Tex (India) Pvt Ltd, where Rajendra Patil is one of the directors along with his family members. The searches were conducted on June 2.

ED initiated the investigation under provisions of FEMA, 1999 on the basis of Panama Paper leaks where the name of Rajendra Patil surfaced. It was alleged that Patil made an undisclosed credit of Rs 66.35 crore in offshore entities.

The searches conducted revealed that Patil has invested in various companies in Dubai, Tanzania and the British Virgin Islands. Further, he also held bank accounts in Dubai and Tanzania, the agency said.

Several documents related to the overseas investment made by Rajendra Patil were recovered and seized. **ANI**

Series of unfortunate events plague this lake

'Illegal activities', lack of safety renders Munnekolala Lake vulnerable

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The fence around this lake was removed by the BBMP in September 2022 after residential localities in the lake's vicinity were flooded during a heavy downpour; locals also complain about people drinking at night

Residents living near Munnekolala Lake in the Brookfield area have voiced their concerns over inadequate fencing around the water body. The lack of such, they say, has turned the lake and its premises into 'a hub for illegal activities'. However, a recent incident left many locals and walkers completely shocked.

"A couple of days ago, the home guard caught a woman in the wee hours while she was trying to drown herself in the lake. Luckily, she was saved. However, this incident has left walkers and residents scared," said Indira Beldge, a resident of the area and member of the Bengaluru Navanirman Party (BNP).

Locals say, most of the illegal activities such as boozing take place after the guards have locked the lake and have signed off. "The guards arrive at the lake at 6 am. All the illegal activities happen before that and mostly at night. We are also aware of a group of men that often enter the lake area illegally around midnight for boozing," said another resident of the area.

The distressed woman who entered the lake could do so before 6 am through an unfenced portion of the lake, they added.

> **"The guards arrive at the lake at 6 am. All the illegal activities happen before that and mostly at night**
> – Resident of the area

The fence was removed by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) in September 2022 after residential localities in the lake's vicinity were flooded during a heavy downpour. The fence has not been restored since then, leaving the water body open. Residents say while they have tried to raise the issue with BBMP officials concerned many times in the past, they have failed to take action on-ground.

"A good 30 feet of fencing was removed nearly a year ago to repair the STPs. After repeated complaints, BBMP officials bought the chain link and rods a year ago, but have been lethargic to fix the fencing. The lake also has three entrances out of which one was removed at least five years ago and never got reinstalled," said Belde. Locals also complained of uncovered wastewater pits posing a danger to walkers and passersby.

"The lake area has two STPs nearly 10 feet deep and without the lids. People come for regular walks and these pits create a dangerous situation," said a walker.

When Bangalore Mirror tried to reach out to the BBMP officials concerned, they were unavailable to comment.

Tiny but toxic: Don't snip that piece

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Cutting open a milk packet is a common habit that each person follows, but the major question to fret about is where these small pieces of plastic end up.

In 2019, Tejaswini Ananthkumar, chairperson of Adamya Chetana, had tweeted that if milk packets are opened without separating the small piece, Bangalore alone can stop 50,00,000 small plastic pieces from ending up in the garbage. Milk packets are usually made of low-density polyethylene (LDPE), which is one of the subclasses of plastics.

Dr Nagalakshmi S, convener of the Social Immersion Program at IFIM College, Electronics City, said, "Nature is not able to digest the small piece which normally gets separated from the 38 lakh litres of milk while opening these packets on a daily basis - and we are talking about the full packets. The heights of carelessness of modern men are leading to the destruction of all species on our only home, the planet Earth. He is living as if there are a few more Earths ready to occupy or getting ready for us, and we can relocate anytime." She added that milk is essential and an integral part of our life, but it's time that we work on alternative and sustainable containers for the same. Akshay Hebliker, director at Eco-watch, said, "The thickness of the plastic of the milk packet is much higher. Hence, it can be recyclable and reused as it is more than 40 microns. The packets should be collected and segregated. There should be technology to reuse these plastics."

Milk packets are often cut open by separating a small piece of plastic; not doing this can result in less small plastic pieces in the trash

He added that these packets can also be reused

> **"We should have separate units to recycle these packets. It can be reused**
> – Akshay Hebliker, Eco-watch

to make other products. For example, they can be used in road making by shredding the plastic with bitumen and tar. The lifespan of these roads will be longer as they are durable and stronger. "We should have separate units to recycle these packets. Either the KMF or the government should ask NGOs and consult the experts. Even the BBMP can organise these collection points," he said.

An official from Marpu Foundation said that people should be informed not to cut the packets completely. "This can reduce 80-90 per cent of plastics. The other alternative is using bottles to distribute milk. These can be returned back on a daily basis."

Chitra Vishwananth from the Biome Environmental Trust said, "Milk packets are made of low-density polythene, which gets recycled into thin plastics. The resultant product from this might be a cause for pollution. The way these plastics are made might also be another reason for air pollution."

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Water wastage
Yeshwanthpur

Unnecessary water flow needs to be addressed near 37 Cross, Divine School, Yeshwanthpur.

Road hazard
Thomas Town

One month has passed, and the slabs on 6 Cross, Wheeler Road Extension, Thomas Town, are yet to be replaced.

Cementing needed
Jayanagar

The footpath opposite BSNL in 4th Block, Jayanagar, 9th Main is in need of proper cementing.

Traffic violations just got more serious

If you thought that only fines are imposed for violating traffic rules, you are mistaken. The traffic police are registering a criminal case for driving in a one-way street and parking vehicles on the road. An FIR is being registered under IPC Section 283. Once an FIR is registered, the vehicle is impounded. Therefore, traffic police have advised the public to be extra cautious about following traffic rules.

Suburban trains every 10 mins?

The frequency of suburban trains is likely to change to every 10 minutes! Infrastructure Development Minister MB Patil instructed the officials on Tuesday to revise the suburban railway proposal to extend it to Mysuru, Gauribidanur-Hindupur, and Kolar. He directed the officials to submit the revised proposal soon.

Currently, the project has an estimated cost of Rs 15,767 crore, which includes laying tracks for a total distance of 148 km.

According to the current plan, suburban rails run up to Chikkabanavara, Doddaballapur, and Whitefield. "Under -1, the work is being taken up between Chikkabanavara and Benniganahalli. However, on the Tumakuru side, this needs to be extended up to Dabaspet. It would facilitate the industrial area located there, and this should happen in the first phase itself," Patil said. He added that suburban railway locations under the present project have already merged into the city and have become parts of it, which is why they need to be extended. "It has been intended to run suburban trains at a time gap of every 10 minutes," he clarified.

The minister said suburban rail projects should connect prominent places located within a 100-km radius of Bengaluru.

—BMB

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Water woes catch Upa Lokayukta's eyes

Takes suo motu cognisance of news reports bringing water shortage in Ramagondanahalli, Mahadevapura to attention

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Karnataka Upa Lokayukta has taken suo motu cognisance of media reports regarding the acute shortage of water at Ramagondanahalli in Whitefield, a part of the Mahadevapura Assembly constituency. Residents staged a protest with empty pots and also locked the office of the BBMP assistant revenue officer, demanding regular water supply.

Upa Lokayukta Justice KN Phaneendra said the news item reflects maladministration in Whitefield, BBMP Sub-zone, and the BBMP authorities have an onerous duty to ensure that the required quantity of water is supplied to every resident daily. "The right to clean drinking water is a fundamental right within the meaning of the right to life guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India. It is needless to say that drinking water is essential to prevent dehydration during summer. If drinking water supply is provided once a week, people will be left in the lurch for the rest of the days, living in unhygienic conditions and having to source water from external agencies by spending a huge amount of money on water suppliers. Making people buy water from private individuals is unbecoming conduct on the part of the BBMP officials as the health and hygiene of citizens would be badly affected," the Upa Lokayukta said.

Stating that the BBMP generates huge revenue from taxpayers and owes a duty to supply adequate water to residents within its limits, the Upa Lokayukta said Ramagondanahalli, which is part of the Bangalore metropolitan area, is facing an acute shortage of water supply. The photograph published in the newspaper depicts that the residents of Ramagondanahalli are demanding basic amenities, roads, and proper water supply. "Being frustrated with official apathy, they have also locked the office of the Assistant Revenue Officer of Whitefield Sub-Division," the Upa Lokayukta said.

> **The right to clean drinking water is a fundamental right within the meaning of the right to life**
>
> — Upa Lokayukta

The Upa Lokayukta said that the state is duty-bound not only to provide adequate drinking water but also to protect water sources from pollution and encroachment. "If anything endangers or impairs the quality of life in derogation of laws, a citizen has the right to approach the authorities for the supply of adequate potable water when short supply may be detrimental to quality of life. The grievance of the residents of Ramagondanahalli needs to be addressed on top priority. I propose to initiate suo-moto action against the erring officials," the Upa Lokayukta said.

The Upa Lokayukta has ordered to communicate the order to BBMP Chief Commissioner and list the matter after two weeks.

What's foaming up Bellandur Lake?

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Untreated sewage and heavy rainfall bringing in large quantities of runoff and suspended solids containing certain bacteria are some of the reasons behind Bellandur Lake spewing toxic foam, according to a recent study conducted by a team of IISc researchers.

The researchers from the Centre for Sustainable Technologies (CST), IISc, have listed the aforementioned reasons after monitoring Bellandur's foam continuously for the last four years.

One of the reasons the toxic foam has puzzled scientists is that it increases after heavy rains, which contradicts the fact that rainfall dilutes pollutants in the lake.

Through a press release issued by the institute, researchers highlighted that they have identified untreated sewage as one of the factors leading to foaming.

"Because the water body is large, the sewage takes 10-15 days to disperse through the lake. Meanwhile, some of the organic material gets degraded without oxygen and settles down as sludge. As more and more sewage flows through the lake, surfactants in the sewage do not decompose and instead get loosely attached to the settled sludge, gradually increasing in concentration – in some cases, up to 200 times the original concentration entering the lake," explained Chanakya HN, chief research scientist at CST and one of the authors of the study.

"Imagine adding one full scoop of washing powder into a bucket of water; it will definitely foam given the right conditions," he explains.

Researchers say heavy rainfall that brings in large quantities of runoff from the city overnight is yet another critical factor.

This high-volume inflow churns up the sludge, dislodges the accumulated surfactant from the sludge, and brings it back into solution, making it ready to foam.

> **One of the reasons the toxic foam has puzzled scientists is that it increases after heavy rains**

"Deep inside the lake, there is little foam because air bubbles do not form. However, as the water level in the lake rises due to rains, the excess water containing large concentrations of surfactants spills over into the lake's outlet to depths as high as 25 feet, trapping air bubbles that turn into foam.

This is an important phenomenon that converts the surfactant-laden water into foam," said Lakshminarayana Rao, associate professor at CST and one of the authors.

Researchers also suggest that suspended solids containing certain bacteria might also be responsible for foam formation.

Free electricity: What's the deal?

Worries emerge regarding how tenants can claim benefits under Gruha Lakshmi scheme; Energy Minister promises to acknowledge the issue and address it

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The state government has finally issued guidelines on how individuals can avail free electricity if their monthly consumption is less than 200 units. However, a major concern has arisen regarding how tenants can benefit from this scheme.

The guidelines, which were released on Monday, state that the Gruha Lakshmi scheme applies to only one RR number (meter) in cases where multiple meters exist within a home. This has raised several questions, as it is common in Bengaluru for the house owner to have electricity meters in their name on behalf of all the tenants. In this scenario, how can tenants claim the benefit of free electricity?

When Chief Minister Siddaramaiah was contacted by the media, he stated that those using less than 200 units would receive free units and would not have to pay any bills. However, there is still no clarity on how tenants can claim this benefit. Energy Minister KJ George mentioned that concessions would be provided for one RR meter and the government will not discriminate between owners and tenants. Yet, how will tenants with RR meters in the owner's name claim the concession?

According to the guidelines, during registration on the Seva Sindhu portal, individuals will need to provide their customer ID, account ID, and Aadhar card details. Even those currently benefiting from the Bhagya Jyoti, Kuteera Jyoti, and Amruta Jyoti schemes can enrol for the Gruha Jyoti scheme. The Energy Minister further clarified that tenants can also file an application form on the Seva Sindhu portal and upload their rental agreement as proof. The owner's declaration of property tax for rental purposes can serve as evidence, allowing tenants with rental agreements to claim the benefit.

PIC FOR REPRESENTATION PURPOSE ONLY

Under the scheme, monthly average consumption will be based on electricity usage over the past 12 months

Under the Gruha Jyoti scheme, the monthly average consumption will be calculated based on the consumer's electricity usage over the past 12 months. Participants will be allowed to consume up to 10 per cent more than their calculated average. However, any consumption exceeding this threshold will be the responsibility of the customer. Minister George mentioned that the consumption patterns of tenants who have stayed in the same home for 12 months will be processed based on their one-year average, and their bills will be calculated accordingly.

Nevertheless, a significant question arises regarding how a tenant's bill will be calculated if they have recently moved to a new house or if the previous tenant consumed less electricity compared to the new tenant. The BESCOM calculates the previous one year's average, which may lead to the current tenant having to pay extra through no fault of their own. When asked about this confusion, Minister George acknowledged the issue and stated that they would consider and address it. He assured that there would be no problem for tenants who have stayed for 12 months, but a solution needs to be found for tenants who have moved in the past few months.

> **AS of now, the Gruha Jyoti application is not yet available on Seva Sindhu. There are concerns about how the portal will handle traffic** –D Gowda

A BESCOM official mentioned that the issued guidelines on Monday were preliminary and that certain modifications might be made based on feedback. The date for applying for the Gruha Jyoti scheme on the Seva Sindhu portal will be announced soon by the department.

Devaraj Gowda, a senior citizen, expressed satisfaction that the government has fulfilled its promise of providing free power. However, concerns were raised regarding the registration process. "As of now, the Gruha Jyoti application is not yet available on Seva Sindhu. With Minister George mentioning that approximately 2.15 crore people need to log in, there are concerns about how the portal will handle such traffic, potential crashes, and the duration of the application period. Another important aspect is the technological capability of everyone, as many may have to visit cyber centres to apply, leading to long queues and additional expenses," he said.

IN BRIEF

Doctors perform difficult lung transplant

It was a last minute save for a 57-year-old patient who recently underwent a lung transplant. Doctors said that the woman was on 15L of oxygen, with imminent demise staring her in the face.

Dr Ravindra Mehta (Senior Consultant, Pulmonology and Interventional Pulmonology at Apollo Hospitals), said, "The patient had been suffering from interstitial lung disease (ILD) for the past two years, leading to severe breathlessness and a compromised quality of life. After thorough assessment and counselling, we suggested a lung transplant as a potential solution."

The transplant procedure lasted for 13 hours.

> **The patient had been suffering from interstitial lung disease (ILD) for the past two years, leading to severe breathlessness**

He added that the patient's recovery post-surgery, aided by the comprehensive support of physiotherapists, counsellors, and dieticians, has allowed her to regain her independence and engage in activities she once couldn't.

The collaborative effort involved medical professionals from Apollo Hospitals, Marengo Asia Hospitals, and Kauvery Hospital, highlighting the significance of partnerships in complex procedures like lung transplantation. **BMB**

'Shakti smart cards can be a deterrent'

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On Monday, the transport department issued a government order specifying the guidelines for implementation of the free bus travel scheme, Shakti, one of the guarantees promised by the newly formed Congress government.

The scheme is set to come into effect from June 11 and applies to women with Karnataka domicile. In the initial three months of implementation, beneficiaries will be issued a zero fare ticket after producing a government-issued photo identity and address proof. Further, those beneficiaries who wish to avail the scheme are required to obtain Shakti smart cards by applying on the government's Seva Sindhu website.

Meanwhile, activists are of the opinion that such a move will act as a deterrent and stop the scheme from reaching its true potential.

"Those who don't have a domicile proof are either short-term visitors or those who are here for a long time but, for various reasons, don't have a domicile proof. These would be women migrant workers or family members of migrant workers, those who come for long-term medical care, or those who have come to the city seeking work but have not yet acquired address proof. It would not be good to exclude the needy just because of a lack of documentation," said Shaheen Shasa, a member of the Bengaluru Bus Prayanikara Vedike (BBPV).

> **The scheme is set to come into effect from June 11 and applies to women with Karnataka domicile**

These portals and offices that will issue these cards create additional barriers for many women to avail this facility, especially those who are already disadvantaged in many ways, she added.

"How does such a card even help the Road Transport Corporations (RTCs)? If it's for the purpose of reimbursement, we can use average trip length or a fixed amount per ticket based on current revenue and ridership estimates to determine the amount to be compensated. Just for more accuracy and a few crores to be saved here or there, do we need to put the women, whose access and mobility we are trying to enhance, through this overhead and ordeal of procuring smart cards? And what about the time and money costs of collecting and processing these applications, and producing and distributing these cards? Is it worth it?" she questioned.

A student told BM that obtaining passes restricted only for students alone involved hassle. "The online application process was easy but I had to go collect a physical copy from the nearest Bangalore One office, which had a long waiting queue. With every woman hoping to get a hold of the smart card, it is going to be quite the task," she said.

Private bus owners seek assistance

With the introduction of the free bus travel scheme, it is expected to increase by 10%. "At least 10-20 families are dependent on each bus. We will not be able to pay the loans taken to purchase the buses if we do not make enough revenue," said a private bus owner. He urged the government to provide them with tax exemptions or diesel subsidies.

Train disaster: Over 100 bodies remain unclaimed

Authorities request families to help identify bodies of people killed in rail crash

Authorities made fervent appeals to families on Tuesday to help identify over 100 unclaimed bodies kept in hospitals and mortuaries after 275 people were killed in the country's deadliest rail crash in over two decades. The disaster struck on Friday, when a passenger train hit a stationary freight train, jumped the tracks and hit another passenger train passing in the opposite direction near the district of Balasore in the eastern state of Odisha.

Following non-stop efforts to rescue survivors and clear and repair the track, trains resumed running over that section of the line on Sunday night. Till Monday evening around 100 bodies were yet to be identified, a senior state health department official told Reuters.

Bijay Kumar Mohapatra, health director of Odisha, said authorities were trying to source iced containers to help preserve the bodies.

"Unless they are identified, a post mortem cannot be done," Mohapatra said, explaining that under Odisha state regulations no autopsy can be conducted on an unclaimed body until 96 hours have passed. At state capital Bhubaneswar's biggest hospital, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), large television screens displayed pictures of the dead to help desperate families who are scouring hospitals and mortuaries for friends and relatives.

A detailed list was made of distinguishing features for each body, but relatives could first view photographs, however gruesome, to identify missing loved ones, a senior police official told Reuters. The trains had passengers from several states and officials from seven states - Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh - were in Balasore to help people claim the bodies and take the dead home, the police official added.

The Railway Board has recommended that the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) take over the probe while a separate inquiry, led by AM Chowdhary, commissioner of railway safety for the south-eastern circle, started on Monday. Railway police filed a case of criminal negligence. A signal failure was the likely cause of the disaster, according to preliminary findings, which indicated the Coromandel Express, heading southbound to Chennai from Kolkata, moved off the main line and entered a loop track – a side track used to park trains – at 128 kph (80 mph), crashing into the stationary freight train. That caused the engine and first four or five coaches of the Coromandel Express to jump the tracks, and hit the last two coaches of the Yeshwantpur-Howrah train heading in the opposite direction at 126 kph on the second main track.

– Reuters

Workers restore railway tracks at the site where the triple-train accident happened on Friday, near Bahanga Bazar railway station in Balasore district, on Tuesday

CBI files FIR; 5 years maximum sentence

The FIR filed in the Balasore train tragedy by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) provides a maximum sentence of five years. The FIR has been lodged under sections 337, 338, 304A, and 34 of the IPC and sections 153, 154, and 175 of the Railway Act. Out of all these sections, only Section 153 of the Railway Act provides a maximum sentence of five years, while the other sections have provisions for two years or less of punishment. The FIR was earlier lodged by the Odisha police but now the probe into the mishap has been taken over by the CBI.

"On June 2, at 6.55 p.m. due to collision between Train No-12841 Howrah-Channel Coromandel Express and Train No-12864 Yesbantapur-Howrah Express, the Buggies of both trains capsized causing death to more then hundred and injuries to several hundreds of passengers. The dead body and injuries person shifted to DHH Balasore, DHH Bhadrak, CHC Soro and other Hospital rescue operation continuing. On this report as its reveals a cognizable case, an FIR under sections 337, 338, 304A and 34 of IPC and 153, 154, 175 of Railway Act is being filed," read the FIR. – ANI

A detailed list was made of distinguishing features for each body; relatives could first view photographs, however gruesome, to identify missing loved ones

IN BRIEF

'No proposal to review anti-cow slaughter law'

After taking a U-turn on the move to ban the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the Congress government in Karnataka is also likely to drop the proposal to withdraw the anti-cow slaughter law considering the opposition and public outrage over the issue.

Speaking to reporters at Vidhana Soudha, Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs HK Patil stated on Tuesday that there is no proposal as such before the government at present to review the anti-cow slaughter law. In recent past, many ministers had issued statements at their personal level and the BJP condemned the statements.

"Chief Minister has not discussed the assembly session yet. Mostly, he will discuss it in the cabinet which will be held on Thursday and take a call on the issue," he explained. Meanwhile, the BJP took a swipe at the Congress, asking if it wants to begin its term in Karnataka with a nod to cow slaughter. It asked Mallikarjun Kharge's views on this. – IANS

5 pilgrims killed in road accident in Yadgir

Five pilgrims from Andhra Pradesh, including a woman and a girl, were killed while 13 others injured when the sports utility vehicle they were travelling in crashed into a stationary truck in the small hours of Tuesday in Yadgir. According to police, these pilgrims were from Vellagud village in Atmakur Taluk of Nandyal district of Andhra Pradesh and were on the way to attend Khwaja Bandenawaz Urus fair at Kalaburagi district.

At about 2 am the driver lost control over the vehicle and hit a stationary truck at Padichakra village in Yadgir district. While five people died on the spot, 13 were injured, they said.

The injured have been shifted to a hospital in Kalaburagi. – PTI

Pan-India drug network that used dark net busted; 6 held

Narcotic Control Bureau (NCB) has arrested six people, allegedly part of a pan-India network of drug traffickers that operated through the dark web and confiscated 15,000 LSD drug blots, in one of the agency's biggest ever seizure in the last two decades. The Narcotics Control Bureau said on Tuesday, describing the seizure as its biggest ever in the last two decades. The agency has also seized 2.5kg of imported marijuana and Rs4.65 lakh in cash at the instance of the suspects.

LSD or lysergic acid diethylamide is a synthetic chemical based-drug that is categorised as a hallucinogen.

According to NCB Deputy Director General Gyaneshwar Singh, the gang used cryptocurrency and the dark net, adding that the delivery was mostly done through courier services. "All the dealings were virtual," the NCB deputy director general said adding the suspects used private messaging apps to communicate.

The dark net is an encrypted portion of the internet that is not indexed by search engines. it uses the router ToR to escape surveillance. Criminals typically use the advantages of the dark net to conduct illegal business, including trading in malware drugs weapons and criminal services under the guise of anonymity.

Addressing a press briefing here today the NCB Deputy Director General said, "We've arrested six persons in two cases and seized 15,000 blots of LSD drug... The commercial quantity of this drug is 0.1 gram. It's a synthetic drug and is very dangerous. This is the biggest seizure in the last two decades." The NCB official said the seizure of 15,000 LSD blots is 2,500 times the commercial quantity.

The agency has also seized 2.5kg of imported marijuana and Rs 4.65 lakh in cash, the official said adding that Rs 20 lakh deposited in bank accounts were also seized. The NCB Deputy DG further said that LSD is quite popular among youth and most of the people involved in this network are educated and young.

"LSD is very easy to smuggle and almost difficult to trace. A commercial quantity is made up of 5 or 6 blots. The NCB has recovered 15,000 blots, and six people have been arrested. There has not been such a huge seizure in the last several years," he said.

The NCB Deputy DG said that in the year 2021, the Karnataka Chief Minister congratulated the police for confiscating 5000 blots in the whole year. Singh said that the huge network was spread out in many states in the country and also stretched to countries like Poland, Netherlands and the US. The Delhi zonal team busted the cartel with the help of several units. "India is becoming a big consumer of LSD, which is dangerous. It is a huge network and was spread across Poland, Netherlands, the USA, Delhi-NCR, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh, the NCB official said.

He added that apart from 15,000 LSD blots, two and a half kilos of foreign ganja and Rs 20 lakh were seized. Earlier in 2021, we had busted 3 dark net sites," he added. – ANI

Narcotics Control Bureau officials with people arrested after the busting of a suspected drugs trafficking network operating on the dark web, on Tuesday

Netherlands PM likely to visit B'luru during India trip in Sept

The Prime Minister of the Netherlands Mark Rutte is expected to visit India in September, during which he is also likely to make a stop at Bengaluru, officials said on Tuesday.

The Consul General of the Kingdom of Netherlands in Bengaluru, Ewout de Wit, met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and held discussions today, the chief minister's office said in a statement.

The CM told him that Karnataka has an investor friendly ecosystem that helps the economy to grow, along with ample skilled manpower as well as good law and order conditions. During the meeting, it was explained that the Netherlands has invested a substantial amount in the state, amounting to 9 per cent of total investment. The Netherlands has a special interesat in industries such as sustainable energy, electronics, semiconductor and other innovative areas.

The Netherlands PM is expected to visit India in September and will also stop in Bengaluru, the release said, adding that on this occasion, the delegation of entrepreneurs is keen to discuss investment in various sectors with the state.

Karnataka being a peaceful state with availability of skilled human resources makes it an excellent destination for investment, the CM said. Assuring all cooperation to the Netherlands companies in the state, he said the state government will not allow the law and order situation to deteriorate. **PTI**

Problems pile up over 4 months

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

residents in the Ward 110 of Whitefield are having to deal with, which needs to be taken up by officials. What is more citizens in this area are facing grave issues such as water shortage, sewage water flow and manhole collapse, illegal construction without building plan approvals, footpath encroachment, flooding during the rains, garbage menace, encroachment of the Pattandur Agrahara lake and waste being dumped on lake bed.

Sandeep Anirudhan, Convenor, Namma Whitefield and Citizens Agenda For Bengaluru, said, "Since February, Whitefield Ward Committee has not held a single ward committee meeting. The ward conditions have been deteriorating.

Though the Election Commission had issued a notification that ward committee meetings could continue, using the elections as an excuse, officials skipped the Ward Committee meetings. Now even after elections have concluded, meetings have not resumed. Residents are agitated, because this is the one platform that allows them to meet officials face to face in a predictable manner and get the ward issues addressed."

According to him the four months of not having meetings has created a vacuum. "Meeting individual officials at their offices is a very tedious process, and meeting them together was impossible. Hence residents are demanding that the meetings resume immediately," he said.

He added that most of the 74th Amendment is not implemented, such as the Metropolitan Planning Committee (Planning Authority), a bottom up planning process for community developed Masterplan, a unified and devolved City governing body, and an elected Council with an empowered Mayor. "However, Bengaluru is fortunate that it has got ward committees functioning in whatever form, due to a High Court directive, and we need to stay alert and strengthen the institution and prevent it from slipping through."

In Byatarayanapura ward 7, the residents talked of issues such as potholes and garbage menace in Jakkur that needs to be addressed.

Ummesh Babu, a resident of Jakkur, said, "The ward committee meetings have not been since the month of February. We were told that the officers were busy with election duty. Now since the elections are over the meeting should have been conducted. During elections some of the roads were asphalted on the main road. But the inner roads are still in a bad condition and they need to be fixed. This apart, garbage problem is rampant in Jakkur."

Another resident from Benninganahall ward said, these meetings are crucial for identifying and addressing local problems such as inadequate infrastructure, waste management, traffic congestion, and public safety concerns. "Without regular meetings, these issues tend to linger, exacerbating the fall in quality of life for residents," they said.

Nodal officer of ward 110 Venkatesh N BBMP said, "Many of the officials were occupied due to election duty. We will now conduct the meeting in the third week of Saturday this month and continue the meetings every month thereafter."

Need to raise fences to protect jumbo corridor

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

said Avinash Krishnan, co-author of the study and director, science and conservation, A Rocha India.

Conducted by a group of city-based researchers, the survey emphasises that in the absence of any alternative movement options for elephants across this landscape, the corridor requires urgent conservation.

Researchers also found the presence of elephants outside the park boundary due to limited physical barriers in place. They say there is a need for additional barriers in the corridor as structural fences form the first line of defense.

"Our survey reveals that structural fences are absent on the north and south sides of the corridor. Having said that, a fund has been allocated by the forest department to fully proof the corridor on either side. We hope this will lead to a lesser number of elephants venturing out," added Krishnan.

Experts say such corridors should be monitored continuously to understand the quality of habitat, functionality, and status. Moreover, villages around the corridor should be brought into the fold of conservation to enhance community participation and bring down the impact of conflicts.

Livestock grazing

Apart from the lack of structural barriers, researchers have also identified the threat posed due to livestock grazing.

"We also found livestock grazing in and around the corridor region, which is a troubling sign. There is no provision under forest statutes for people to enter the forest area for livestock grazing. People in this belt are largely pastoralists and have an agrarian background. Livestock grazing should be regulated through Gomala (grazing) land. Having said that, forest-level livestock grazing needs to be fully understood and the empirical concerns of livestock grazing need to be established first," said Krishnan.

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I Sohan Sanjeeva Kundar S/o, Sanjeeva Kundar.M R/o No 114/3-56/46, Near 43 A Bus Stop, Kaveri Nagar, Kathir - guppe, Bsk, 3rd Stg, Bengaluru 560085 have changed my name to Sohan Kundar Sanjeeva Kundar for all purposes.

I, Guru Badigole S/o Krishnaiah Badigole R/o 1 Mariyamman kovil street, Baira colony, Vellore, Tamilnadu-632505 present my camp at Bengaluru. Have changed my name to Guru Krishnaiahbadigole affidavit dt.06/06/2023 Notary Ganesh Gowda M.V, B'luru

I Sheetal Satyanarayan Birla D/o Satyanarayan Suganchand Birla R/o Horamavu,Bangalore have changed my name from Sheetal Satyanarayan Birla to Sheetal Birla for all future purposes.

I, Leticia Louis Xavier D/O, Louis Xavier R/o Jp Nagar 7th Phase, Bengaluru have changed my name to Leticia Xavier for all purposes.

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RACE TO FINISH

Research says competition make us less moral, but only a little bit

Many of our economic and even social interactions are competitive. We use markets to find jobs, but also dates. What does this mean for our morals? Does capitalism give us the American dream, or American Psycho? Does the experience of competition keep us honest, or drive us towards cheating?

These profound questions preoccupied the minds of some of the great classical economists, who saw capitalism as rife with both good and bad moral influences. Adam Smith mostly focused on the good, whereas Karl Marx was admittedly less optimistic.

To test this question convincingly in the lab, our project coordinators invited dozens of behavioural scientists to contribute their own experimental designs, resulting in observations of more than 18,000 people in total.

Our results, published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, show that competitive interactions tend to make people's behaviour slightly less moral – and offer some intriguing clues about why this might be so.

A difficult question to answer

We are not the first to take a scientific approach to the question of competition and morality. However, individual tests have delivered mixed results, possibly because of differences in the definitions and measures of morality used.

Some of the early results were provocative, such as a finding that people in competition were less likely to prevent the death of a mouse. However, these results were hard to replicate or interpret.

One way to account for differences in the design of individual studies is to conduct a "meta-analysis", evaluating and combining the results of many different studies. However, meta-analysis often has troubles of its own, as selective reporting and publication bias can influence which studies are available to be included in the analysis.

What was different about our study

To really get some reliable results, we went a step further and carried out a "prospective meta-analysis".

The "prospective" part means that all the studies to be included in the analysis were registered before they were done. This prevents cherry-picking of results, or bias in what kind of results are published.

Our project involved 45 different experiments carried out by teams around the world. Each team independently designed an experiment to test the effects of competition on morality.

The results of these studies, which involved observations of more than 18,123 individual participants, were then collated and analysed.

A small decline in morality (on average)

The meta-analysis revealed that competition has an overall negative effect on morality, but the effect is very small. (The effect is measured by a number called Cohen's d. A value of 0.2 is considered a small effect, and the value we found was only 0.1.)

As expected, we also observed a substantial variation in the effects as measured by different experiments. Some were positive, some were negative, and the sizes of the effects also varied.

So despite the advantages of our new prospective meta-analysis, the jury is still out regarding the overall effect of competition on morality.

Perhaps the question is too general to answer properly without a particular context. The devil may be in the details.

Loss, not competition, to blame?

My team (one of the 45 involved in the meta-analysis) used a number-guessing game between two people as an instance of competition. This was followed by an individual game of honesty, which was our measure for the effects on morality.

This individual experiment resulted in a small negative overall effect of competition (d = –0.1) much like the meta-analysis, but it failed to reach statistical significance on its own.

However, exploratory analysis of our results revealed a potential breakthrough.

We found it was only the losers of the number-guessing game who became more dishonest, with a larger effect (d = –0.34). The winners of the competition stage, on the other hand, showed no change in their honesty behaviour.

These exploratory results – yet to be replicated – suggest a reason why competition does not affect morality much on average. Perhaps it is being disadvantaged in a competitive process that corrupts, not competition per se.

(By Ozan Isler, The University of Queensland, The Conversation).

MIRRORLIGHTS

Gardening, cycling may help 'fight off' genetic risk of Type 2 diabetes

Indulging in moderate-to vigorous-intensity physical activity like gardening, dancing, cycling could lower the risk of Type-2 diabetes, even in people with a high genetic risk of developing the medical condition, new research has revealed.

The study led by a team at the University of Sydney in Australia showed that more than an hour of moderate-to vigorous-intensity physical activity per day was associated with a 74 per cent lower risk of developing Type 2 diabetes when compared with participants who did less than 5 minutes of physical activity.

This was even when other factors, including genetic risk, were accounted for.

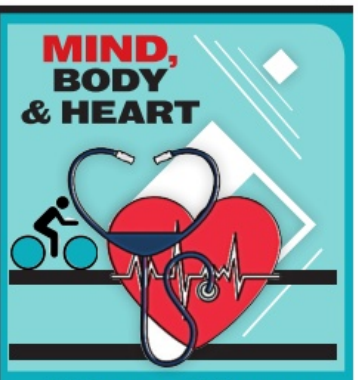
The findings, published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine, demonstrates that higher levels of physical activity should be promoted as a major strategy for Type-2 diabetes prevention, which affects more than 537 million people globally, the researchers said.

"We are unable to control our genetic risk and family history, but this finding provides promising and positive news that through an active lifestyle, one can 'fight off' much of the excessive risk for Type-2 diabetes," said Melody Ding, Associate Professor from the varsity's Charles Perkins Centre and the Faculty of Medicine and Health.

Ding said moderate-intensity physical activity describes movements that get you sweating and slightly out of breath, such as brisk walking and general gardening.

Examples of vigorous-intensity physical activity include running, aerobic dancing, cycling uphill or at a fast pace and heavy gardening such as digging – all activities that make you out of breath or cause you to breathe heavily.

— IANS



All problems solved

Dear Coleen

My husband and I are both in our seventies and we've been updating our wills. A cheery subject I know, but we've since had grandchildren and wanted to include them.
It's caused a huge row between my husband and me because he doesn't want our eldest son to benefit financially as much as our two younger children. He's decided this because our eldest is very successful and has plenty of money, and says he won't need it as much as our other two.
While this is true, I've always been of the opinion that we have to treat all our children the same, otherwise it sends out the message that we don't love our eldest as much as our other two, which couldn't be further from the truth.
I would hate my eldest son to feel we weren't being fair or kind.
I'd love to know what you think and if you have any advice on how I can resolve this with my husband, because neither of us is budging!

COLEEN SAYS

Well, one idea might be to talk to your eldest son and tell him what your husband is thinking.
He might agree and say he doesn't need the inheritance, but will appreciate that you discussed it with him.
However, I'm with you on this decision. I think splitting everything equally is the easiest thing to do because it's fair and, personally, the thought of my kids falling out over what I've left to them is horrible – it would make me very sad. For me, it almost feels as if your husband is punishing your eldest for being successful.
Who knows, if your son doesn't need the money, he might very well say he's happy your other two have his share, but it should be his decision. If everything is equal, there should be nothing to argue about.

Good luck.

—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

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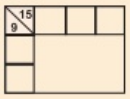

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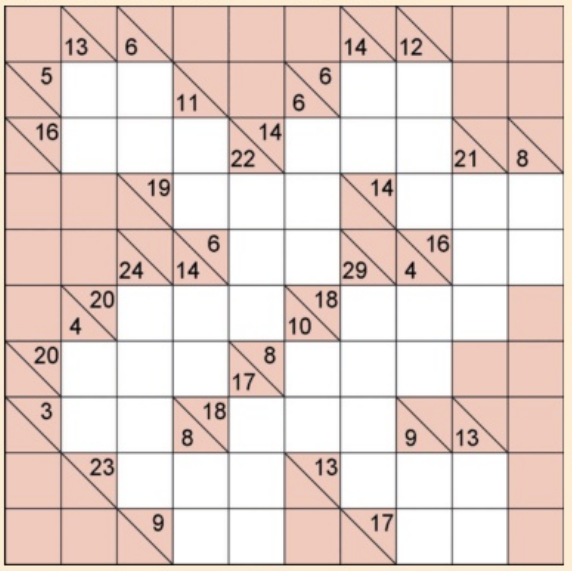
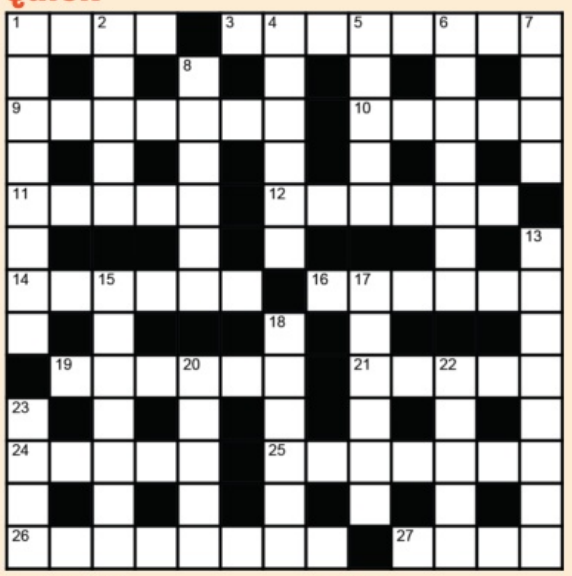


Quick



ACROSS

1 Hounds (4)
3 Fast runner (8)
9 City in Madhya Pradesh (7)
10 Desiccated (5)
11 Make a speech (5)
12 An officer of the church (6)
14 Landed property (6)
16 Lively (6)
19 Established as true (6)
21 Great Asian river (5)
24 ___ Hills: Bangalore's highest point (5)
25 Wicked or profane (7)
26 Remittances? (8)
27 Mimics (4)

DOWN

1 Is he the one who is fond of his canine pets? (3,5)
2 Tropical fruit (5)
4 Ecclesiastical district (6)
5 Book reference (5)
6 City in North Africa? (7)
7 Go on horseback (4)
8 Best (6)
13 Perseveres, endures or remains (8)
15 Jailer? (7)
17 Tender and brittle (6)
18 Junkie (6)
20 Popular fashion magazine (5)
22 Wilt (5)
23 Illegal seizure of power (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: H EQUALS G

DT TDS VED FXS, DT TDS VED AXCS EDMRAXDH, PASD AS FTTUN CXKSVRFM XDRT NTLSTDS'N SMSN.

Linemaro

I seem to have loved you in numberless forms, numberless times, in life after life, in age after age forever

Mindchow

A fool and water will go the way they are diverted

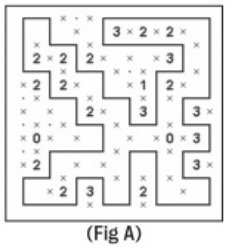
Joke of the day

We live in a society where pizza gets to your house before the police

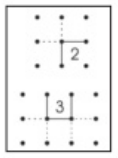
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

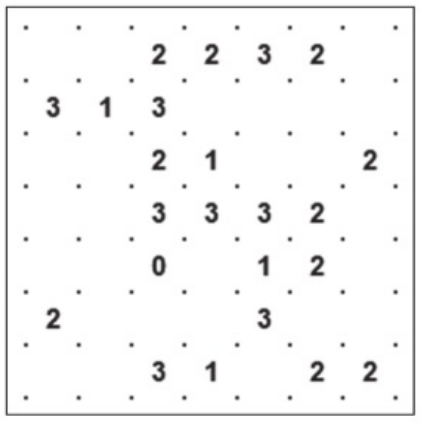


(Fig B) Not Allowed

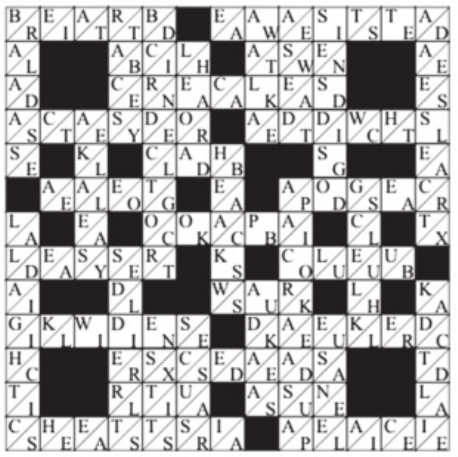
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



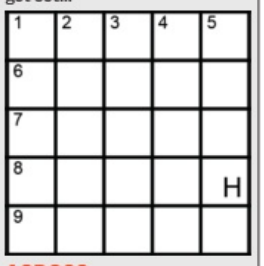
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 SS Bot; 6 Your L;
7 Put an; 8 C Math;
9 Splat

DOWN

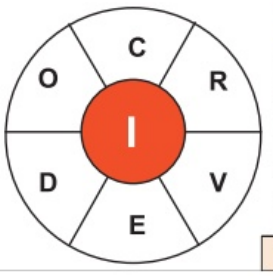
1 Lumps; 2 Talon;
3 A tout; 4 Br CAT;
5 HS Spy

Mensapuzzle

Which is the odd number out?

9421, 7532, 9854, 8612, 6531, 8541

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

14 Average; 16 Good; 18 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

				2		5		8
					8		4	
		4	3	6		2	9	7
	1					6		2
3								5
2		6					3	
9	4	7		8	2	1		
	3		5					
8		2		9				

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 8
4 5 8 9

Medium = 9
2 5 6 6

Hard = 25
5 7 9 7

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

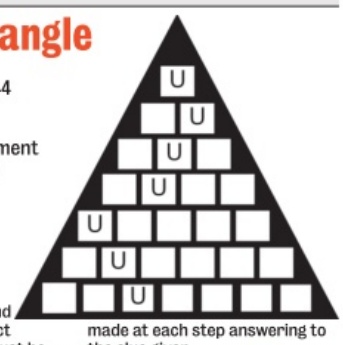
Differences: 1. Tree is reversed. 2. Stripe is added to sleeve. 3. Stripe on helmet is wider. 4. Football is moved. 5. Cap is turned around. 6. Collar is different.

Riddler

I'm full of holes but strong as steel. What am I?

Alpha triangle

1 Last vowel
2 Atomic number 44
3 Have regrets
4 Hayseed
5 Brown earth pigment
6 Make a low noise
7 Sleep



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

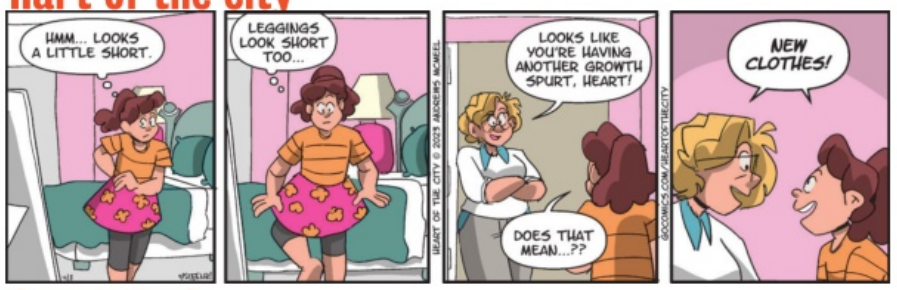
COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city



Crankshaft

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon. Happiness may be around you, and it can help you enjoy your day-to-day work. Your vitality may help you make tough decisions that will increase your profits in the near future. You may plan for a work-related short trip. Colleagues may support you in completing your work on time. Students may find themselves more focused on their studies. You are advised to control your eating habits to avoid stomach issues.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may feel dull. Sleeplessness may affect your mental and physical health as well. You may also be upset due to the health issues of your family member. Your expenditure on worthless stuff may affect your savings. You may be a victim of conspiracy, so you are advised to keep an eye on your opponents.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, your past investments may give you good profits. You may get good results after an easy job. Your obstacles may disappear now. Your financial status may improve, and new sources of income may be there. Couples may hear good news in terms of kids. You may achieve success easily with a little effort.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you are likely to meet someone who can help you expect positive growth in your business or work. Your destiny may help you, and your losses may now convert into profits. Your financial health may be on track now. Lovebirds are advised to make important decisions regarding marriage. Singles may likely find their soulmate.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, situations are under control. You are blessed by Jupiter today, and you may expect to get an important position or post in the office. You may be inclined towards spiritual and mythological facts. You may feel stronger in your thoughts, which can make you confident in your way of working. You may also plan for a short trip.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may feel unhappy and dull, which can affect your way of working. There may be some delays in your projects that are to be completed. It may affect your prestige in your professional and domestic life. It is advised to avoid adventure tours or rash driving. Lovebirds may experience some breakups. Job seekers may be disappointed in terms of finding a new job.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may perform your best in the office. You may have a good bond with the boss, and you may get new responsibilities in terms of promotions. Chronic health issues may be cured now. You may receive good incentives for your work as well. Disputes with siblings may be resolved now. Job seekers may find a new job.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may feel healthy, and your old diseases may be cured now. You may hear some good news from your near relatives. You may perform well in the office, and your colleagues may help you with any critical projects. You may develop faith in your subordinate staff, which can increase your prestige among society. You may also hear good news regarding some legal matters.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you are likely to be busy with your kids' education and career. You may hear some good news in terms of their academics. However, lovebirds are advised to be patient in terms of their relationships. Investors are advised to avoid investing in risky assets as they may result in losses. It is advised to do meditation, yoga, or chant mantras to overcome this typical situation.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may be a victim of dissatisfaction. You may not get the results of your hard work, which can be disappointing and make you upset. You are advised to read documents carefully before signing a contract or paper. Investing in assets may also be possible. Follow your intuition before making investments in fixed assets. Your overwork may affect your domestic life, causing you to arrive late for family or social events.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may be busy with social get-togethers and family occasions. It may increase your network. You may also plan for a work-related short trip. Disputes between siblings or friends may be resolved now. Your colleagues may cooperate with you to complete a difficult project. You are likely to complete all the tasks with self-confidence. You are advised to keep patience while interacting with any person.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may implement some new plans into your family business, which will pay off in terms of gains in the near future. You may also be busy with family or social get-togethers. You may spend on buying some creative artifacts to renovate your house, which may increase your social status. Today, you need to be careful about teeth, ears, eyes, nose, and skin issues.

KIDZONE

Poojitha R, 9 Years, Sadhguru Sainath School

Dyuthi Pamulaparthi, 5 Years, VIBGYOR High School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
(9*81*6) /√36=
(3*6) / 6=
18 / 6 = 3

RIDDLER
A chain

QUOTE UNCODE
No one can lie, no one can hide anything, when he looks directly into someone's eyes.

FAST FIVE

S	T	O	B	S
L	O	U	R	Y
U	N	T	A	P
M	A	T	C	H
P	L	A	T	S

STRIKE OUT

S	H	A	S	T	R	I	■	P	E	A	C	E		
H	■	R	I	A	S	U	N	■	■	■	■	■		
G	L	I	D	E	S	■	E	L	E	D	■	■		
I	■	L	■	S	U	K	■	L	■	A	■	■		
L	A	V	E	R	■	K	C	L	U	B	■	■		
A	■	A	■	O	K	A	P	I	■	C	T	■		
A	L	O	T	■	E	■	P	O	S	E	R	■		
E	■	L	■	C	A	B	■	G	■	■	E	■		
S	T	A	V	E	R	■	E	D	I	C	T	S		
A	■	C	R	A	C	K	E	D	■	■	S	■		
T	■	R	I	A	■	S	U	N	■	■	L	■		
H	■	E	X	C	E	E	D	S	■	■	D	■		
G	L	I	D	E	S	■	K	E	E	L	E	D

Chilling in Istanbul — Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu took some time off from her busy schedule to enjoy a Turkish bath in Istanbul, Turkey. The actress, who was in the city shooting for her upcoming movie 'Kushi', decided to extend her stay to relax

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Ode to backbenchers

Vikram KY, who debuts as a producer in Sandalwood, is busy with promotion of his maiden Kannada movie Bengaluru Boys. Vikram has bankrolled Telugu movie Oo Pe Ku Ha (Oollo Pelli Kukkala Hadavidi) in which veteran actor Rajendra Prasad played the lead.

"I bankrolled two Telugu movies and one Tamil movie. I wanted to make a good Kannada movie. So, I decided to bankroll the movie Bengaluru Boys which is about college students who are known as backbenchers," said Vikram.

He said the movie has emotion, love, drama, ethics, and friendship. "I am particular about the quality of the story. I had to change three directors for this movie as I do not want to compromise with the quality. Finally, Gurudatha Ganiga, who handled the megaphone for Ambareesh-starred Kannada movie Ambi Ning Vayasaytho, is directing this movie," he said.

Rohit Bhanuprakash, Abhi Das, Sachin Cheluvarayaswamy (the son of minister Cheluvarayaswamy), Chandan Achar, Chikkanna, Vainidhi Jagadeesh (the daughter of Jai Jagadish and Vijayalakshmi Singh), and Sony Mulewa are the star cast in this movie. "Chikkanna plays a frustrated software engineer in this movie. The movie highlights the importance of friendship. One of the characters has cancer and his friends vie among themselves to help him," he said, adding that teaser, trailer, and first look poster of the movie are already released.

Do good, be good

Among the many good Samaritans of Sandalwood is Kiran Raj.

Though busy with shooting of the movie Rani, Kiran Raj continues with the good work. He enabled the supply of around 100 bags of cement to build an orphanage – Nammane Summane Destitute Orphanage – managed by Nakshatra, a transwoman. The orphanages will help the community members and homeless people.

"I am very happy to help Nakshtra who has been struggling a lot to provide a shelter to homeless people. It gives me immense pleasure to help people working for the welfare of others. I have been supplying lunch for around 1,000 people once a week," said Kiran Raj.

Kiran Raj, who earned name for his performance in tele serials, hails

from Mysuru. He has been associated with the tinsel world for eight years. He debuted in Sandalwood with the movie Buddies. "I have also acted in Sher, Barjari Ganda, and Megha.

All these movies are ready for release. Around 80 percent of the shooting of Rani is completed," he said, adding that he plays a gangster in the film. He has also played the lead in Telugu movie Vikram Gowda.

Money matters

Vicky Kaushal who has been married to Katrina Kaif for over a year now, is enjoying every moment of his marital life. He recently revealed how he enjoys the budget meeting that Katrina holds with the staff every week.

In an interview with a news portal, Vicky revealed that the most fun experience is when Katrina holds a meeting in the house every week, or every other week. She gets the entire staff together, and discusses the budget of the house. She takes account of how the money is being spent, the expenses. The actor added that when that discussion happens, he enjoys it. So much so that he sits with popcorn.

Spilling some beans on who is the penny pincher amongst them both, Vicky said it depends on what they are buying and who is more interested in that. If they are buying something that he is more interested in, then she says that they should stick to the budget. However, if it is something she is interested in, then he says 'why so much…' and then she concludes by saying, 'No no, I am fond of this'. —ETimes

That didn't quite sit well

Bollywood stars invariably come under fire for the comments they make. Alia Bhatt, who was recently announced as the first Indian global ambassador of a luxury fashion brand, shared her thoughts on gender equality as part of the campaign. In a video, Alia could be heard saying, "If she is empowered, if she is productive within herself, she will be productive at home for her children, for the community, for the country. That has ripple effects on everyone connected to the woman. My name is Alia Bhatt and I chime with the women in India." However, well meaning as it might be, Alia's comments drew a lot of flak on social media with netizens saying they could not wrap their heads around what she was saying.

Many users made their disdain with the actor quite clear. One user wrote, "So we should empower women not because they have the right but so that they can serve the society and family, nice." —ETimes

To new friendships

Bebo hitting it off with two co-leading ladies

Kareena Kapoor Khan is currently shooting for ''The Crew' with Kriti Sanon and Tabu.

These three women are already bonding like a house on fire and their social media banter and 'chai pe charcha' pictures are proof! Kriti and Kareena were also spotted at the airport, arriving from Goa after the shoot and they looked like the new BFFs in town.

In a recent interview, Kareena revealed that she's quite excited for people to watch 'The Crew' and she was also really looking forward to work with Tabu. Bebo said that her sister Karisma and Tabu have done some stellar films together and she was so excited because this is the first time she's working with her. Kareena added that it's so cool that all the females are working on this film - including the producers (Ekta Kapoor and Rhea Kapoor). That's such a cool thing, exclaimed Bebo!

She further revealed that this is a big screen film and people will love it. Kareena said that these days it's just about doing a good film and not about who is there in the film. She's worked with most female actors, said Bebo. Talking about her other films, Kareena added that while people just keep talking about 'Jab We Met' to her, it's like 'ghar ki khichdi'. It just doesn't seem to get old every time one sees it.

Having said that, people should also talk about her other films and characters apart from Poo from 'Kabhie Khushi Kabhi Gham' and Geet from 'Jab We Met'. The actress said that people should talk about some of her under-rated films like 'Chameli', 'Omkara', 'Heroine' and 'Yuva'. —ETimes